

What is claimed is:

1. A method of automatically controlling a networked environment comprising:
  - a setup step comprising:
    - capturing a face image of an individual,
    - storing the face image,
    - associating at least one appliance setup to the face image,
  - and an initiating step comprising:
    - comparing the face image to stored face images,
    - retrieving the at least one appliance setup for a matched face image, and
    - initiating the at least one appliance setup.
2. The method of Claim 1, wherein a face recognition system performs the capturing and comparing steps.
3. The method of Claim 1, wherein the at least one appliance setup further comprises a quantifiable term associated with at least one networked appliance.
4. The method of Claim 3, wherein the quantifiable term comprises a level, a temperature, a volume, a channel, a track

of a recording, a period of time, a frequency, or period of time.

5. The method of Claim 1, wherein the setup step is performed upon request of the individual.

6. The method of Claim 1, wherein the initiating step is performed automatically.

7. The method of Claim 1, wherein the associating step further comprises inputting the at least one appliance setup into a memory by typing on a keyboard, by speaking into a voice recognition system, or by selecting the at least one personal feature from a touch-sensitive screen.

8. The method of Claim 1, wherein the at least one appliance setup controls at least one illumination source, a television, a stereo, a device for playing recorded music, a microcomputer, a device for preparing food, or an interior climate control device.

9. The method of claim 1, wherein the associating step further comprises selecting a specific feature of the at least one

appliance setup and the initiating step initiates the at least one appliance setup according to the specific feature.

10. The method of claim 1, wherein the at least one appliance setup comprises a message storage device and the initiating step further comprises:

receiving an incoming message into a device for receiving messages,

recording said message onto a recording medium,

determining if the message is associated with the face image,

recalling the message associated with the face image, and

reciting the message associated with the face image through a recitation means.

11. The method of Claim 10, wherein the receiving, recording, recalling, and reciting steps comprise:

telephonic message receiving, recording, recalling, and reciting and the recording medium records telephonic messages,

email message receiving, recording, recalling, and reciting and the recording medium is a device for storing email,

facsimile message receiving, recording, recalling, and reciting and the recording medium records facsimile messages, or some combination thereof.

12. The method of Claim 1, wherein the initiating step further comprises:

associating the matched face image with a hierarchy of control over the at least one appliance setup,

determining if a second individual previously initiated the at least one appliance setup,

determining the hierarchy of control over the at least one appliance setup associated with the second individual, and

initiating the at least one appliance setup associated with the matched face image only if either no second individual previously initiated the at least one appliance setup, if the matched face image ranks higher within the hierarchy of control, or based on a default or average setting if the matched face image and the second individual have the same rank.

13. The method of Claim 1, wherein the method further comprises requesting a password be entered by the individual, receiving said password, and verifying that the password matches a preset password before storing the facial representation of the individual.

a face recognition system for storing a face image of the individual, and determining the identity of the individual upon their entering the environment,

at least one appliance setup capable of being initiated by the system, and